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*Report on the Condition of the Population in Three Parishes in Rutlandshire, in March, 1839.* By the Statistical Society of Manchester.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, 26th August, 1839.]

THE Statistical Society of Manchester, having completed and published an inquiry into the condition of the working classes in several large manufacturing towns in the north of England, were desirous of obtaining similar information with regard to some population differing in character and circumstances from those which they had previously examined. For this purpose they selected three parishes in Rutlandshire, a purely agricultural county, which they conceive may be assumed to afford a fair sample of the whole. The information thus obtained they have arranged in a series of detailed and comprehensive tables, which obviate the necessity of any elaborate comment.

The parish of Branstown, which lies on the western side of the county, contiguous to Leicestershire, contains about 1400 acres, of which more than three-fourths are pasture-land and about one-fourth is arable. It has a population of 102 families, comprising 425 individuals; but there is no resident clergyman, and no resident landlord possessing any extensive property.

The parishes of Egleton and Hambleton (which have been classed together) are situated at a very short distance from Oakham, the county-town, and contain about 2400 acres, which are about equally divided between arable and pasture. The chief part of both these parishes is the property of Mr. Finch, who resides upon his estates, and bears the character of a humane and considerate landlord. The population consists of 100 families, comprising 479 individuals.

The first three tables, A, B, and C, relate to the dwellings of the population, and the account of them is upon the whole very satisfactory. The houses are low, never exceeding two stories; many of them are thatched, and nearly all are built of stone. To each a garden is attached, which is generally of sufficient dimensions to supply the family with vegetables. As there are no cellars, most of the houses have a small dairy or store-room attached, which, however, has not been counted in reckoning the number of rooms in each house. Forty per cent. of the dwellings in Branstown, and 51 per cent. in Egleton and Hambleton, are reported to be *well furnished*. In Manchester and Salford 52 per cent., and in the Dukinfield district 61 per cent., had that character.

The proportion reported to be *comfortable* in each district were—

In Branstown . . . .	50 per cent.
Egleton and Hambleton . . . .	65 „
Manchester, &c. . . .	72 „
Dukinfield . . . .	95*

The general appearance of the interior of the houses indicated thrift

\* The word “comfortable” must always be a vague and varying epithet, nor is it possible to attach any precise definition to it. Our agent says, “In filling up this column I was guided by observing the condition of the dwelling apart from all consideration of order, cleanliness, and furniture. If I considered it capable of being made comfortable by the tenant, I set it down accordingly; if it was damp, the flooring bad, and the walls ill-conditioned, I reported it uncomfortable.”

poverty, and instances of the squalid misery so frequent in large towns were here extremely rare. In comparing the physical condition of the people in the three parishes, Eggleton and Hambleton appeared to have some slight advantage over Branstown. A reference to Table B will show that, while 31 per cent. of the houses in the former parishes contained 4 rooms, only 17 per cent. in the latter had this advantage. In its amount of sleeping accommodation, also, Branstown is inferior to the neighbouring parishes. From a comparison of these tables with those in a former report it appears that in

Eggleton, &c.	14	per cent.	of the families have more than three persons to a bed.
Branstown	19	„	„
Dukinfield	33	„	„
Bury	35	„	„

The rents of the houses in Rutlandshire would appear (Table C) to be very low compared with those in our towns; the difference being apparently nearly double that which would be warranted by the inferior size and accommodation of the dwellings.

		£.	s.	d.
Eggleton, &c.	average yearly rent	2	17	3
Branstown	„	3	0	0
Dukinfield, &c.	„	6	14	0
Manchester, &c.	„	7	11	8

The next series of tables, D, E, F, and G, show the age, sex, occupations, and earnings of the population, and call for no particular remarks.

The proportion of public-houses and beer-shops is to the population

In Branstown	as 1 in	85
Eggleton, &c.	„	240

The average weekly wages of the heads of families was ascertained, after some difficulty, with tolerable accuracy. The amount appears to vary from 9s. 7d. in Branstown to 10s. 8d. in Eggleton and Hambleton; and about one-fourth of the individuals under 21 years of age are reported to be earning wages. In the manufacturing towns previously examined by the Society it was found impracticable to ascertain from the persons employed the average amount of their earnings; and, as statisticians, we do not feel at liberty to hazard a conjecture which we are not able to substantiate. We know, however, that in those districts one-third of the minors are in the receipt of wages.

Considerable pains were taken by our agent to obtain a comparison of the rate of wages in Rutlandshire at the present day and ten years ago; but, after the examination of about 80 cases, it was found that the information obtained was not sufficiently precise or certain to warrant the Society either in publishing it or in drawing any conclusions from it.

The state of education in these parishes is fully detailed in the Report on the Schools of Rutlandshire.\* We shall therefore merely give a summary corresponding to that published in our former Report on the Condition of the Population in the Manufacturing Districts. We do not, however, wish much reliance to be placed upon the comparison which we have drawn out, as the inquiry into these points in the manufacturing districts was not fully sifted. Tables H and I give the following results:—

\* See page 303.

	Able to read. 75 per cent.	Able to write. 44 per cent.
Branstown	81 ,,	50 ,,
Eggleton, &c.	50 ,,	— ,,
Manchester, &c.	53 ,,	28 ,,

*Proportion now at day-schools.*

	11 per cent.
Branstown	19 ,,
Eggleton	12 ,,
Manchester, &c.	6 ,,
Dukinfield, &c.	

Table K relates to the religious profession of the heads of families in the parishes of Rutlandshire, and needs no comment. In Eggleton, where there is a resident clergyman, the establishment claims 82 per cent. of the population, and in Branstown, where it is destitute of this advantage, only 73 per cent.

In conclusion, we may observe that the visitation of the houses of the labouring poor in Rutlandshire, and the observation of their language, manners, and habits, leave a favourable impression with regard to their moral condition. Swearing and drunkenness are far from common, and the general conduct of the people is marked by sobriety, frugality, and industry. Their education has been but limited, nor has their intelligence been very highly developed; and, though few dwellings were found entirely without books, yet these were far from being either numerous or well-selected, and were almost exclusively confined to religious subjects.\*

TABLE A.—Number and Condition of the Dwellings:—

Number of Dwellings.		Branstown.	Eggleton and Hambleton.
Houses . . . . .		97	†95
Chambers . . . . .		5	5
Total . . .		102	100
Condition of Dwellings.			
Number of dwellings well furnished . . .		41	51
„ tolerably furnished . . .		38	36
„ ill furnished . . . . .		23	13
„ clean . . . . .		58	70
„ tolerably clean . . . . .		33	27
„ dirty . . . . .		11	3
„ comfortable . . . . .		51	65
„ tolerably comfortable . . .		38	28
„ uncomfortable . . . . .		13	7
„ with ample supply of water . . .		43	42
„ insufficient do. . . . .		23	31
„ no supply . . . . .		4	3
„ not ascertained . . . . .		32	24
„ with adequate drainage . . .		15	28
„ inadequate drainage . . .		29	31
„ no drainage . . . . .		25	18
„ not ascertained . . . . .		33	23

\* Among the most common were Fox's Martyrs, Fleetwood's Life of Christ, and Venn's Whole Duty of Man.

† One of these is only a hut or cabin.

TABLE B.—Number of Rooms, and Number of Beds in each Family :—

Number of Individuals of which each Family consisted.		Number of Families, distinguishing the number of Rooms which each has in its Dwelling.															
		Parish of Branstown.								Parishes of Eggleton and Hambleton.							
		Number of Rooms.								Number of Rooms.							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	Not ascertained.	Total.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Not ascertained.	Total.
Rooms.	1 or 2	2	8	2	4	..	..	4	20	1	4	4	6	1	1	4	21
	3	1	7	6	2	..	..	4	20	1	4	4	8	..	..	1	18
	4	..	9	3	4	..	1	10	27	..	6	1	4	1	2	3	17
	5	..	1	1	2	1	..	7	12	..	..	2	4	2	1	2	11
	6	..	1	2	2	1	..	2	8	..	1	1	3	2	..	5	12
	7	..	..	2	2	1	..	2	7	..	2	..	1	2	..	1	6
	8	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	5	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	3
	9	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	2	..	1	1	5
	above 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	3	7
	Total . .	3	27	17	18	3	1	33	102	2	18	13	31	10	6	20	100
Beds.	Number of Families with } 1 person to a bed . . }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
	Do. 2 do. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
	Do. 3 do. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
	Do. 4 do. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Not ascertained . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
	Total . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100

TABLE C.—Annual Rent of Dwellings :—

Number of Dwellings paying a Yearly Rent.				Parish of Branstown.	Parishes of Eggleton and Hambleton.
£.	s.	d.	£. s. d.		
Of 1	0	0, and not exceeding 1	10 0	2	5
Of more than 1	10 0	..	2 0 0	13	2
2	0 0	..	2 10 0	5	2
2	10 0	..	3 0 0	13	2
3	0 0	..	3 10 0	5	7
3	10 0	..	4 0 0	3	..
4	10 0	..	5 0 0	6	1
6	10 0, and upwards . . . .	..	..	1	1
Rent free . . . . .	..	..	..	1	2
* Not ascertained . . . . .	..	..	..	53	78
Total . .				102	100
Average ascertained				£3 0 0	£2 17 3

\* The greater proportion of these were farms, or cottages, with land attached, under the same rent-charge.

TABLE D.—Number and Ages of the Population :—

Parishes.	Adults.			Above 12 and under 21 years.			Under 12 years.			Total Population.	Average to a Family.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Branstow .	120	117	237	38	32	70	54	64	118	425	4.17
Egleton and Hambleton }	121	125	246	52	46	98	72	63	135	479	4.79

TABLE E.—Occupations of Adults :—

Nature of Occupations.	Branstow.			Egleton and Hambleton.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Agricultural and other out-door employment . . . }	56	1	57	50	..	50
Farmers and graziers . . .	26	..	26	32	5	37
Employed at home . . .	4	6	10	4	5	9
Building trades . . .	7	..	7	7	..	7
Clothing trades . . .	5	..	5	3	..	3
Mechanics and handicrafts . .	5	..	5	3	..	3
Shopkeepers and retailers . .	5	2	7*	4	..	4
Licensed victuallers . . .	2	..	2	2	..	2
Domestic servants . . .	..	9	9	1	6	7
Professional . . .	3	2	5	1	..	1
Miscellaneous . . .	..	..	..	4	..	4
Total employed in business	113	20	133	111	16	127
Not employed . . .	7	97	104	10	109	119
Total adult population .	120	117	237	121	125	246

TABLE F.—Occupations of Minors :—

Nature of Occupations.	Branstow.			Egleton and Hambleton.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Agricultural and other out-door employment . . . }	19	..	19	32	..	32
Farmers and graziers . . .	6	..	6	5	..	5
Employed at home . . .	2	3	5	1	..	1
Building trades . . .	2	..	2	3	..	3
Clothing trades . . .	3	1	4	..	..	..
Mechanics and handicrafts . .	3	..	3	..	..	..
Domestic servants . . .	..	14	14	1	13	14
Total employed in business .	35	18	53	42	13	55
Not employed . . .	57	78	135	82	96	178
Total . . .	92	96	188	124	109	233

\* Three of these are retail brewers.

TABLE G.—Weekly Earnings of Heads of Families and Lodgers:—

Rate of Weekly Earnings.	Number of Heads of Families and Lodgers.	
	Branstow.	Egleton and Hambleton.
3s. 6d.	1	2
5s.	2	1
6s.	1	..
7s.	5	1
8s.	1	1
9s.	9	2
10s.	3	9
11s.	5	..
12s. and upwards	6	30
Work by the piece . . .	17	3
Engaged on their own account .	49	52
Paupers . . . . .	4	..
Wages not ascertained . . .	9	1
Total . . . . .	112	102
Average wages per week .	9s. 7d.	10s. 8d.

TABLE H.—Acquirements of the Population with regard to Education:—

Ages of the Population.	Branstow.				Egleton and Hambleton.			
	Read.	Write.	Cipher.	Sew.	Read.	Write.	Cipher.	Sew.
Minors under 21 .	106	49	20	55	156	73	38	61
Adults . . . .	214	136	88	118	231	158	95	114
Total . .	320	185	108	173	387	231	133	175

TABLE I.—Number of Children *now* at School:—

Ages.	Branstow.	Egleton and Hambleton.
Under 5 years . .	3	13
5 years and under 10	32	54
10 „ „ 15	11	22
15 „ „ 21	2	1
Total . .	48	90

TABLE K.—Religious Profession of Heads of Families and Lodgers:—

Religious Profession.	Branstow.	Egleton and Hambleton.
Church of England . . . . .	82	82
Protestant Dissenters . . . . .	12	14
Professing to worship among various denominations	11	4
Making no religious profession . .	6	2
Not ascertained . . . . .	1	..
Total . .	112	102